REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in substantially the same order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claim 1 is currently amended to more clearly define pre-existing claim limitations. No claims are canceled. No claims are added. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,566,764 to Rebsdorf (hereinafter "Rebsdorf").

Claims 5-19 are allowed.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rebsdorf. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections because the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

CLAIMS 1-4

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rebsdorf. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference because Rebsdorf does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

> A method of operating a wind turbine, comprising:
>
> driving a rotor of the wind turbine by feeding rotor currents by a feed-in unit to rotor windings of an induction generator, which comprises stator coils coupled to a voltage grid;
>
> controlling the frequencies of the fed-in rotor currents depending on the rotor rotation frequency;

electrically decoupling the feed-in unit from the rotor windings in the case of predetermined variations of the grid voltage amplitude **by an emergency unit**;

releasing the fed-in rotor currents after electrically decoupling the feed-in unit using a release arrangement of the emergency unit; and

when the rotor currents in the rotor windings by the variation have declined to a predetermined value, resuming the driving of the rotor of the wind turbine by feeding rotor currents by the feed-in unit to rotor windings of the induction generator after the decoupling caused by the variation of the grid voltage amplitude. (emphasis added)

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 requires the operations of "electrically decoupling the feed-in unit from the rotor windings in the case of predetermined variations of the grid voltage amplitude by an emergency unit" and "releasing the fed-in rotor currents after electrically decoupling the feed-in unit using a release arrangement of the emergency unit." Rebsdorf fails to disclose at least these limitations of the claim.

As described in the Applicant's previous response, Rebsdorf is directed to a variable speed wind turbine that includes a matrix converter which converts variable frequency output into constant frequency output. See Rebsdorf, Abstract. Resbsdorf also discloses that the matrix converter includes a protection circuit. The protection circuit includes a clamp circuit for protection of the converter switches against over voltages caused from the inherent presence of stray inductances between the input filter and the matrix switching element array. This clamp circuit also can be used to supply power for the matrix converter controller circuitry, as shown in FIG. 13, also during a period of power grid disturbance, where energy to the control circuits is supported by energy stored in the generator. As a result, the matrix converter will be able *to resume control of the generator when the grid disturbance disappears*. This back-up of the controller for the matrix converter enables the generator to be *operated immediately after a disturbance has ended*. See col. 7, line 61 to col. 8, line 8. In particular, in case of a grid failure, the switch (shown as thyristor 1710 in FIG. 13) clamps the rotor voltage until the stator is disconnected from the supply grid, and the rotor currents are zero. See col. 20, lines 39-46. Rebsdorf, however, does not disclose electrically decoupling the feed-in unit from the rotor windings in the case of predetermined variations of the grid voltage amplitude

by an emergency unit that includes a release arrangement that releases the fed-in rotor currents after electrically decoupling the feed-in unit, as required by claim 1.

Given that the cited reference fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claim, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Given that claims 2-4 depend from independent claim 1, which is patentable over the cited reference, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-4 are also patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Michael J. Mallie at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8/8/07

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